

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/532,122

Examiner

Laura Edwards

Applicant(s)

NICHOLS ET AL.

Art Unit

1734

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed as of 6/21/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4 and 6-20 renumbered as claims 12-17, 19, 18, 1-4, 11, and 5-10 respectively.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


LAURA EDWARDS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Peter Skiff on 7/25/07.

In the claims:

In claim 1, line 9, "an optional switch" has been changed to --a switch--.

In claim 1, line 12, "the power" has been changed to --a power--.

In claim 8, line 9, "an optional switch" has been changed to --a switch--.

In claim 8, line 12, "the power" has been changed to --a power--.

In claim 10, line 1, "the fingerprint" has been changed to --a fingerprint--.

In claim 10, line 3, --providing the fingerprint detection apparatus, the apparatus comprising-- has been inserted in front of "a liquid source".

In claim 10, line 10, "an optional switch" has been changed to --a switch--.

In claim 10, line 12, --the method further-- has been inserted in front of "comprising".

In claim 10, line 15, "a surface" has been changed to --the surface--.

In claim 14, line 1, "the fingerprint" has been changed to --a fingerprint--.

In claim 14, line 3, --providing the fingerprint detection apparatus, the apparatus comprising-- has been inserted in front of "a liquid source".

In claim 14, line 10, "an optional switch" has been changed to --a switch--.

In claim 14, line 12, --the method further-- has been inserted in front of "comprising".

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In claim 14, line 15, "a surface" has been changed to --the surface--.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-4 and 6-9 are allowable because there is no teaching or suggestion in the prior art of a fingerprint detection apparatus comprising the combination of a liquid source containing a solution which upon vaporization and contact with a surface to be inspected can provide an image of a fingerprint; a flow passage in fluid communication with the liquid source; a valve operable to control flow of liquid from the liquid source to the flow passage; a heater arranged to heat the solution in the flow passage into a gaseous state; and a switch operable to activate the valve and the heater such that solution flowing through the flow passage is vaporized and directed outwardly from the apparatus, wherein the switch is operable to open the valve and connect a power supply to the heater.

Claims 10-13 and 15-20 would be allowable because there is no teaching or suggestion in the prior art of a method for using a fingerprint detection apparatus comprising the combined steps of providing the fingerprint detection apparatus comprising a liquid source containing a solution which upon vaporization and contact with a surface to be inspected can provide an image of a fingerprint; a flow passage in fluid communication with the liquid source; a valve operable to control flow of liquid from the liquid source to the flow passage; a heater to heat the solution in the flow passage into a gaseous state; and a switch operable to activate the valve and the heater such that solution flowing through the flow passage is vaporized and directed outwardly from the apparatus, the method further comprising flowing the solution through the flow passage while heating the flow passage with the heater, forming vapor by vaporizing the

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solution, directing the vapor onto the surface to be inspected, and inspecting the surface to locate fingerprints.

Claim 14 would be allowable because there is no teaching or suggestion in the prior art of a method for using a fingerprint detection apparatus comprising the combined steps of providing the fingerprint detection apparatus comprising a liquid source containing a solution which upon vaporization and contact with a surface to be inspected can provide an image of a fingerprint; a flow passage in fluid communication with the liquid source; a valve operable to control flow of liquid from the liquid source to the flow passage; a heater arranged to heat the solution in the flow passage into a gaseous state; and a switch operable to activate the valve and the heater such that solution flowing through the flow passage is vaporized and directed outwardly from the apparatus, the method further comprising pressing the switch to open the valve and activate the heater, flowing the solution through the flow passage while heating the flow passage with the heater, forming a vapor by vaporizing the solution, directing the vapor onto the surface to be inspected, and inspecting the surface to locate fingerprints.

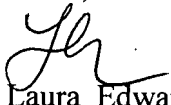
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura Edwards whose telephone number is (571) 272-1227. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Philip Tucker can be reached on (571) 272-1095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Laura Edwards
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1734

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July 25, 2007